MODERN TIMES

10¢

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New Haven

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WHAT'S INSIDE

The world famous Moscow Circus recently visited New Haven and displayed such dazzling acts as the high wire act pictured above. The Circus also brought out a small section of the city who were not interested in being entertained. Story on page 6. (MT photo by Nick Heyer)

VIETNAM ANALYSIS pg.5

SPORTS pg.6

MONEY $ TALKS ...pg.7

NEWS FLASH

ELECTION COMING UP AT YALE NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL

On February 12, 1973 the Connecticut State Labor Board handed down a decision which called for a union election no later than March 1 for the approximately 250 dietary workers at the Yale New Haven Hospital. Workers at the hospital who have been conducting an organizing campaign for years look upon this decision as a victory and are working enthusiastically for the election.

Women Vs. Connecticut Victorious

High Court Decision Favors Abortion Right

by Laurie Nussdorfer
Modern Times Staff

The movement to legalize abortion in Connecticut has had a stormy course in recent months. On January 22, however, in a decision which will affect the Connecticut law, the Supreme Court overturned a Texas law which made abortion a crime except to save the life of the mother.

The Court barred the states from interfering with the decision of a woman and her doctor to end a pregnancy within the first three months. They based their decision on a woman's right to privacy and held that abortion being a relatively simple medical procedure, the state no longer had an interest in protecting women from a hazardous operation.

In a statement the following day *Women v. Connecticut, which has* twice challenged the constitutionality of very restrictive abortion laws, called upon the state legislature to repeal the anti-abortion law they had passed last summer. The law had been ruled unconstitutional by a state court of appeals, but the state won an injunction to keep the law in effect while the decision was being appealed to the Supreme Court.

The group stated, "We hope (the Supreme Court's decision) will bring an end to government interference with a woman's right to choose. The only way that this right can be freely exercised is if abortion is treated like all other medical practices, covered by the Medical Practice Codes."

Two Major Concerns

The statement expressed two concerns in the wake of the ruling. The Court has ruled that legal regulation in the second trimester of pregnancy (12 to 24 weeks) is permissible, but only when "reasonably related to maternal health." Women v. Connecticut wants to see the time limit for abortion extended as long as possible.

They cite several reasons. Young girls unwilling to face pregnancy often delay their decision until the last minute. Shortages of hospital beds also delay some abortions until the second trimester of pregnancy and in addition certain birth defects can be detected only towards the middle of this period.

Non-Profit Clinics Needed

The group's second concern is

see FAVORABLE page 2

Public Gets Sore Feet While Meskill Drags Behind

On the Street Interview

by Patti Miller & Edw. Breuler
Modern Times Staff

It is now the 74th day and we are still counting. Buses have not run for that amount of time in this city, but by the time this is printed, it will probably be the 84th day and still counting. **Modern Times** in keeping with its tradition of finding out what is really on people's minds in this city, set out to find out how the lack of buses is affecting people.

In our quest for information, we had to travel many miles to the center of town on foot. Footweary, we encountered many other people in the same condition. Dr. Scholl's foot powder where are you?

Without further intro, we would like to present some people's view on the crisis.

Don Walker lives in Hamden, 3 miles from New Haven. He told us: "I usually ride a bicycle to work but on bad weather days I used to take the bus. I walk now and it usually takes about an hour or so. It's an added hassle not to have the buses running. I know I'm not as bad off as a lot of other people. I sure hope they settle. I wish they were here."

Julia Lieberman goes to school. "I generally have no ride either to or from school. I have missed a lot of days due to no buses."

Don Samuels and William Housley talked a lot about walking. "It's horrible! My feet are tired from walking uptown and downtown every day. My feet really hurt," said Mr. Samuels.

Then we came across two young women who were also very upset over the matter. Deborah Dececchi had

see PUBLIC page 7

Don Samuels

Nina Proto

Deborah Dececchi

Florence Newell

(MT photos by Patti Miller)

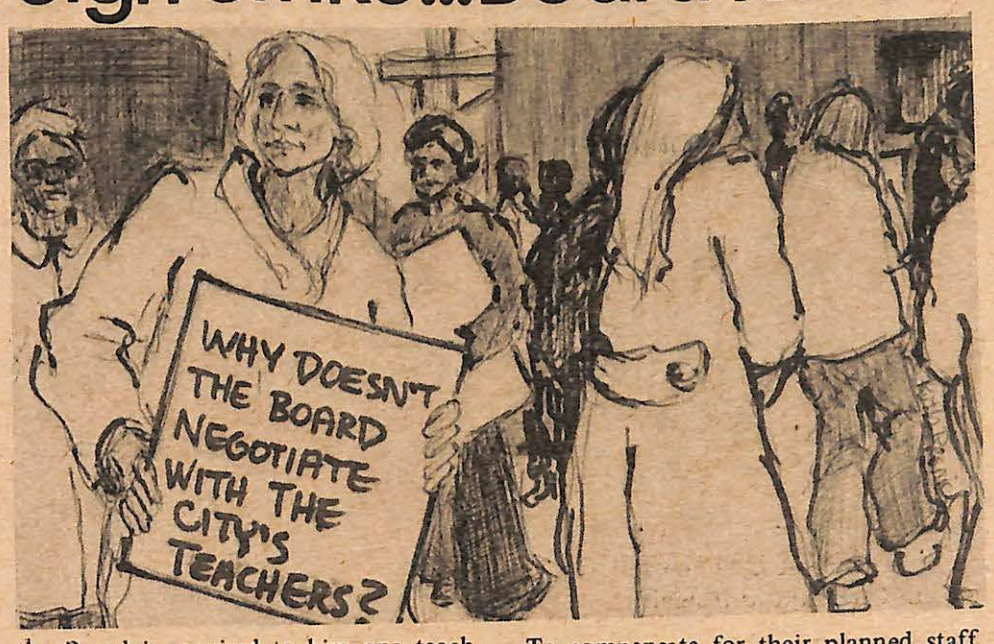
Teachers Weigh Strike...Board Refuses To Budge

Modern Times Staff

The New Haven Federation of Teachers is preparing for the worst in its current negotiations with the Board of Education. A meeting of all teachers is scheduled for February 15 to take a strike vote if the Board has not come up with a reasonable offer.

Negotiation sessions have been held almost daily since February 5, but the Board has not moved from its proposal for a "roll-back" contract for teachers. The NHFT will hold meetings for teachers in each city school the day before the mass meeting in order to present all the issues at stake. At that time teachers will have more of an opportunity to ask questions and to clearly formulate their position for the February 15 vote.

The Board of Education still wants to remove all restrictions on "teacher-student ratio" from the contract. Presently,



the Board is required to hire one teacher for every 30 students in the school system. The Board apparently would like to get along with fewer teachers and larger classes.

To compensate for their planned staff reduction, the Board wants High School teachers to prepare three lessons per day rather than two as prescribed in the old contract.

Along with "roll-back" proposals for the teaching load, the Board is asking that teachers accept a 3% salary increase for next year - including increments. An arbitration panel last summer recommended a wage increase of 4.8% above increments based on financial data submitted by the Board.

The NHFT has already agreed to accept no raises, only increments for this year except for teachers at maximum who received no increment.

New Haven teachers will face a difficult decision on February 15. A statement by the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers currently on strike in that city reflects the feelings of all teachers in this situation:

"Teachers hate not getting pay checks. They hate tightening their belts and then tightening them again. They hate seeing over 25,000 kids deprived of normal schooling and wondering what will happen to them as a result of a strike.

They hate having time on their hands when being busy is what they're used to.

Nor is it a joy to be threatened with jail and the permanent loss of jobs as well.

But they will not be blackjacked into working under a miserable contract."

Board Threatens to Withhold Pay

In another development, the Board of Education has threatened to withhold the pay of over 350 teachers who called in sick on February 7. Teachers are entitled to 15 sick days per year and are only required to justify an illness after five days absence. The NHFT claims that the Board is trying to intimidate teachers and has asked the courts to enjoin the Board from holding back teachers' pay. The union claims that the Board has not gone through due process procedures and cannot take any action without proof that a teacher has abused the sick leave provisions of the contract.

Abortion Referral: A Valuable Community Service

by Laurie Nussdorfer
Modern Times Staff

In the wake of the Supreme Court decision which bars the state from interfering in the decision of a woman and her doctor to end a pregnancy by abortion, the Connecticut legislature will soon have to repeal the state's restrictive abortion law. In the meantime, the New Haven Abortion Referral Service helps women get safe, legal hospital abortions.

On the ground floor of 215 Park Street a group of New Haven women maintain a telephone line and free referral service for women who want abortions.

"We try to make it as easy as possible for women to get safe, legal abortions - to find the right clinic, to understand what will happen to their bodies, and to feel good about the decisions they've made," states an informational leaflet in their office.

Nearly 250 women have used the service since it began in November, 1971.

The office, in the Women's Center, is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1 to 7 PM. Women who call in are assisted in getting pregnancy tests and then encouraged to come in to the office.

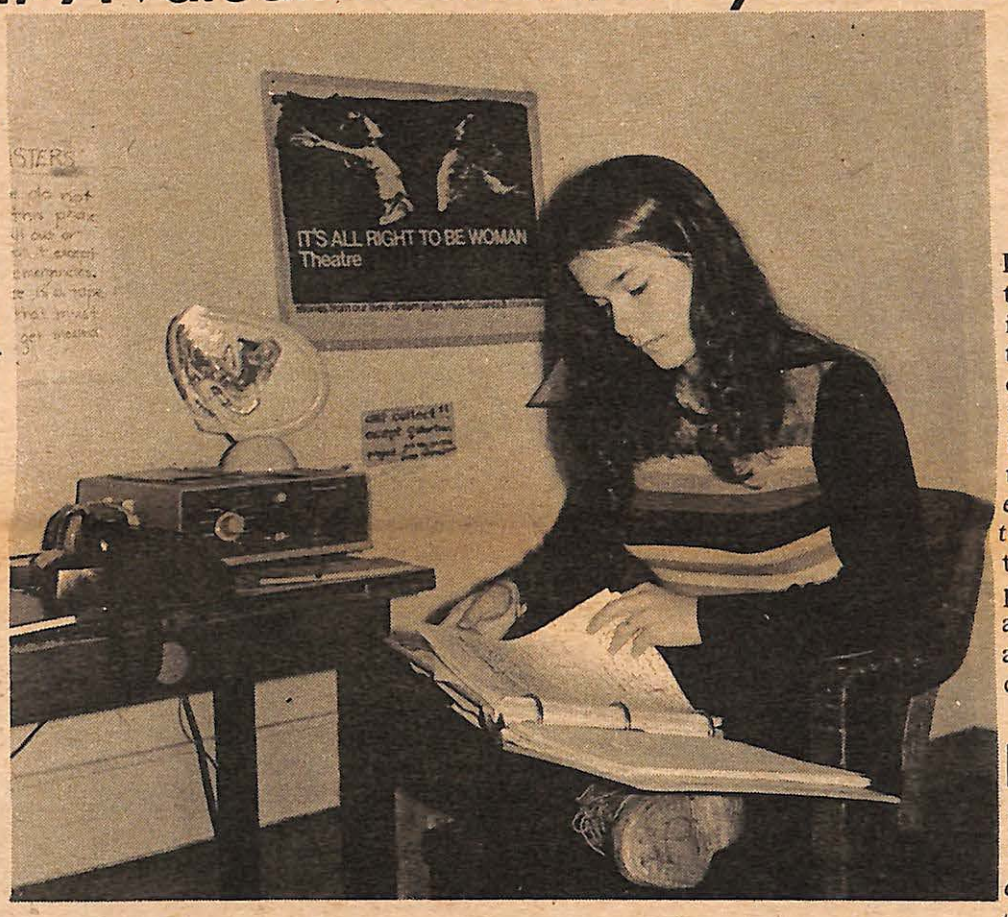
"We like to speak to women in person so we can talk about how they feel about the abortion and what it's like, staff worker Ricka Alper explained. "We call the clinic to make arrangements and make follow-up appointments with New Haven gynecologists three weeks after the abortion."

Free for Some

Free abortions at Yale-New Haven Hospital are available to women in the Yale Health Plan, women on welfare, and women with certain kinds of Blue Cross coverage. The procedure there takes a full day; the woman visits a psychiatrist, a gynecologist, and a social worker in the morning and has the abortion in the afternoon.

Most women, however, must use the clinics in New York whose fees range from $100 to $350 depending on the type of abortion. Each clinic recommended has been visited by the staff volunteers of the abortion referral service. According to a brochure, "We are satisfied that the doctors, counselors and facilities in each of them are good. We feel that they treat women well and have basically the same attitudes toward abortion that we do."

There are three main types of abortion



Emily Fine womans the phones at the Abortion Referral Clinic on 215 Park St. in the city. The Clinic is set up to assist women who want safe ,legal abortions.
(MT photo by Nick Heyer)

-which is used depends on length of pregnancy. Up to 12 weeks vacuum aspiration, which can be done in ten minutes with local anesthesia, is employed. Slightly more difficult procedures are used from 12 to 24 weeks of pregnancy.

While the age range of women using the referral service has been 13 to 45, most women who come in are between 16 and 30. Most are unmarried and about nine or ten weeks pregnant.

The Staff

The staff, which has grown from eight to 18, meets weekly; training is primarily practical experience in the office. Some of the volunteers were involved in a medical self-help project last spring and they want to expand in this direction in the future.

"We're really interested in educating women about their bodies, ourselves about our bodies," said Ms. Alper. "We have speakers and have bought a bus which is being renovated by women in the practical living course at the High School in the Community." Eventually it could become a mobile educational unit to give out information on birth control, show slides, or do pregnancy or venereal disease tests (with a doctor and appropriate equipment.)

The telephone number is 776-3182.

For pregnant women who want to give birth there is a local chapter of Birthright at 1303 Chapel Street which maintains a telephone line between 9 and 1 Monday to Friday, Saturday from 10 to 1, and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 7 to 9. The number is 776-5395. The chapter has a crisis center staffed by volunteers who give advice on financial, emotional, or medical problems which might arise.

Favorable Ruling By Supreme Court

continued from page 1

that women seeking abortion not be exploited by profit-hungry doctors and clinic administrators. They state, "We will not be content until (the right to decide whether or not to bear a child) can be freely exercised by all women, regardless of their economic situation." Women v. Connecticut recommended that non-profit women's medical clinics make abortions and other gynecological services available to be set up, where counselling would be offered to those who wanted it.

Community Notes

NEW MEDIA SERIES

"Media for the Young Child" is the topic for discussion at a series of meetings throughout February at the Children's Room of the New Haven Free Public Library. Topics for the last two meetings will be, February 21, "Television and Your Child : What Is Its Impact?", presented by Dr. Robert Abramovitz of the Yale Child Study Center and Arthur Greenwald, a Sophomore at Yale; and February 28, "Snuggle, Snarl, Smile: Uses of Emotions In Picture Books" presented by Karen Birchard, children's librarian at the Fair Haven Branch Library. All programs are free and scheduled for Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

SUMMER AND SMOKE TO BE PERFORMED

Summer & Smoke, the Tennessee Williams drama, will be presented Saturday and Sunday, February 17 & 18th, 8:30 p.m. at the New Haven Jewish Community Center, 1156 Chapel Street. Admission is $2.00 adults and $1.00 students.

A classic of the American stage depicting a young woman's struggle with her own inhibitions, *Summer & Smoke* is being staged by the Theatre Guild of the Jewish Community Center.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Center or will be available at the door.

Mory's Picket Gains Election And Lost Pay

Press Release from Local 217
Hotel & Restaurant Employees & Bartenders Union, AFL-CIO

The Union which has been striking Mory's, the beleaguered Yale private club, for the past two weeks announced on February 6, 1973 that a settlement which ends the strike was reached last night during a State Labor Relations Board hearing.

The settlement, according to Local 217, Hotel & Restaurant Employees & Bartenders Union, AFL-CIO, has two parts.

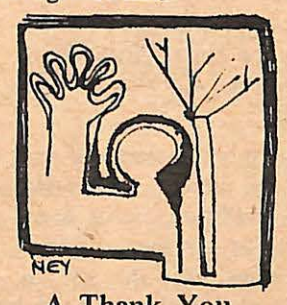
First, according to Local 217 Secretary-Treasurer John Wilhelm, waiter Leo Daigle, whose firing on January 16 led to the two-week strike, has had the dismissal removed from his record, has been paid $600 in cash for the three weeks he was out of work, and has resigned as a Mory's waiter. Wilhelm said today that "this was a satisfactory settlement of Mr. Daigle's case because he said yesterday that under no circumstances would he return to work at Mory's, because of the lousy treatment he got there from management."

An Election Coming

Second, according to Wilhelm, Mory's employees will vote in a secret ballot election Monday afternoon, February 19, on whether they want to be represented by Local 217. The election will be supervised by Ms. Betty Tianti, Assistant Agent of the State Labor Relations Board, who directed the discussions leading to the settlement.

"We're delighted," Wilhelm said today, "that the workers at Mory's will have a chance to vote on Union representation. Since a clear majority had signed up for our Union before Mr. Daigle was fired, we have confidence that we will win the election and bring the protection of a good Union to the Mory's workers."

"We have shown that this Union does not abandon workers who are illegally fired for organizing their fellow employees," Wilhelm said. "I had hoped that Mr. Daigle would go back to work, but he resigned with the $600 in his pocket because he wanted no further part of Mory's or the character assassination they conducted against him."



A Thank You

Wilhelm said that "it's too bad the picket line at Mory's was occasionally so bitter. The Union wants to thank the people who helped us out on the picket line, particularly on Monday of last week when the "Unionpoofs" on the picket line outside clearly outsang the "Whiffenpoofs" who were scabbing inside."

Mory's troubles are not over, however, since the settlement of the Union strike does nothing to help the exclusive club's troubles with women protesting its all-male membership policy or its difficulties with the State Liquor Commission, which wants to take away its liquor license for discriminating against women.

One Day Penn-C Strike Stalls Crew-Cuts

Members of the United Transportation Union display signs of strike against the Penn. Central. The strike lasted but 22 hours as Congress stepped in to save the Railroad and extend the cooling off period another 90 days. (MT photo by Sequin)

by Slipry Rail (A UTU member)

Penn Central did it again.

At midnight February 7 they had not backed off from their announced decision to assume unilaterally the "unrestricted right" to cut train and switcher crews, mix year and road work, and move men from crew to crew as they might see fit.

There was only one answer possible from the United Transportation Union—strike.

Within the last two years we members of the UTU have prepared for three strikes and actually hit the picket line twice. This strike lasted about 22 hours before Congress and the President put us on another 90-day cool-off.

Each strike so far has only lasted a few hours, so we have been spared the sacrifices of a long strike. Picketing a railroad presents its own problems and trials.

Even a small railroad spreads all over the country and has hundreds of possible entrances. An army couldn't cover them all.

So picketing a railroad has to be a sort of guerrilla picketing. Here is a general idea of how it's done.

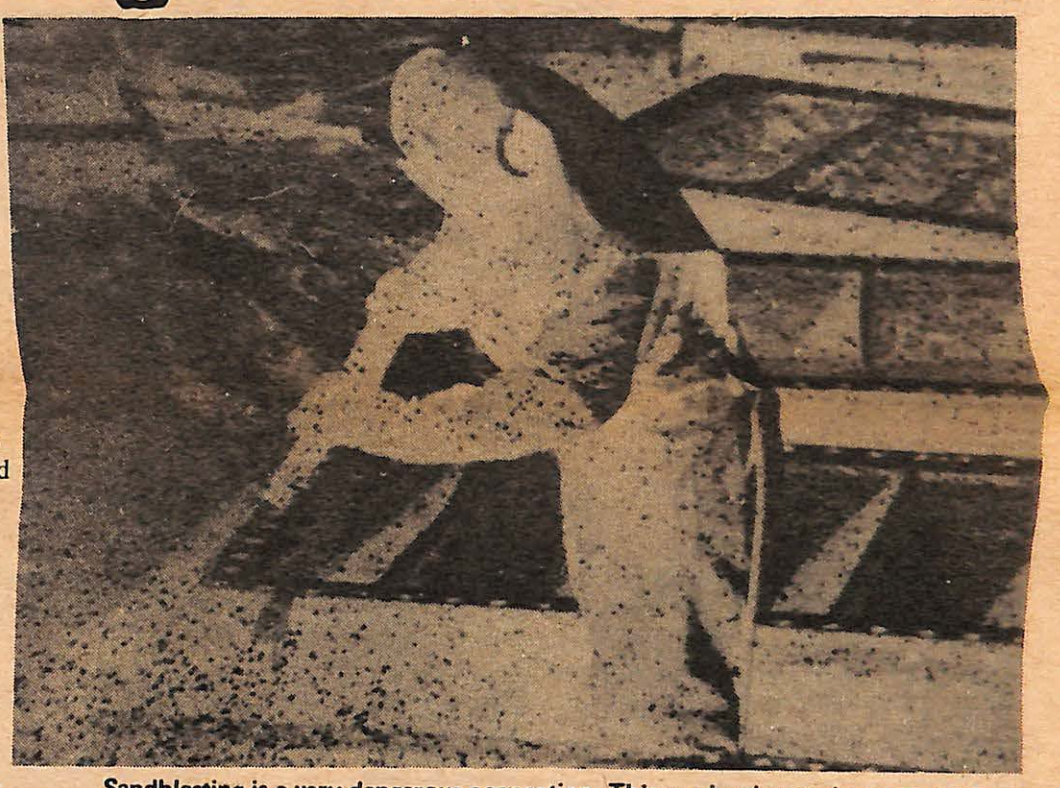
The policy is to get everyone on the picket line within the first twelve hours. That's good for a show of strength and solidarity, but it seems to assume that the strike will be all over within that twelve hours. So—

The picket captains go crazy trying to get *half* their men out the second time round and the other half committed to the third time. (Men who walked from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. are not happy about being called to come back at 2 in the afternoon.)

On the whole the spirit was good. The unity of black and white and even more of younger and older brothers was beautiful. But it could be a lot better if our leaders would plan for the long haul as well as for the initial bang.

Friday morning the notices were already going up, that PC would try it again May 7.

Silicose Endangers Worker's Lives



Sandblasting is a very dangerous occupation. This worker is wearing a protective uniform and headpiece designed to shield him from the flying particles.

Silica dust is a problem to people who work in foundries, quarries and metal working shops. It can cause a fatal disease of the lungs called silicosis. Silica dust is produced in grinding, chipping, buffing of metals, foundry core making, glass making, brick making and tunneling.

Silica or silicon dioxide is the most common ingredient (60%) of the rocks and minerals which make up the earth's surface. It exists in two forms, free and combined. Free silica means that the silica is not combined chemically with other substances. Only free silica is known to cause silicosis. Sillicosis is likely to result only where there is sufficient exposure to fine dust over long periods of time (2 to 25 years - average 10).

Harmful Effects

Silicosis is a disease of the lungs caused by excessive and prolonged inhalation of free silica, in which normal lung tissue is replaced by nodular fibrous tissue. Silicosis of the lungs is divided into three stages. In Stage 1, there may be only X-ray evidence of scattered, fine nodular lesions (less than 2 mm.) throughout both lungs without clinical evidence of disease. In Stage 2, a more extensive involvement of the lungs, with enlargement, joining and further spread of the nodules is usually accompanied by shortness of breath, cough, weight loss, and decreased strength. The third stage shows extensive involvement of both lungs, with marked impairment of lung function. Silicosis is frequently accompanied by tuberculosis (silicotuberculosis), a severe, often progressive and fatal disease.

Individuals with evidence of pulmonary disease should not be exposed to silica dust. Periodic examinations, including chest X-ray, should be required of all persons employed in dusty operations.

Maximum Allowable Concentration

For continued exposure to a dust containing 100% free silica (quartz): 2.5 million particles of dust per cubic foot of air. With free silica, the maximum allowable concentration is inversely proportional to the percentage, but never above 30 million particles per cubic foot.

Protective Measures

If the silica-containing dust cannot be replaced by a less harmful substance, then the dust should be controlled at the point of origin by the use of local exhaust systems or wet methods. The operation dispersing the dust should be isolated or enclosed or the operation so changed as to eliminate the dispersion of the dust. Approved dust-type respirators, air-line respirators, or helmets are recommended only as a last resort and usually for short periods of time. A combination of one or more of the above methods may be employed.

Medical Control

Pre-employment physical examinat
including a full plate X-ray of t
should be required of all empl
exposed to excessive silica-containing dust.

Labor Notes

600 Miners Win Court Order for Retroactive Pension Pay

A federal judge has ordered the United Mine Workers welfare and retirement fund to pay some 600 miners a total of $19 million in retroactive and future pension benefits.

Judge Richey's was the second court decision recently that has called for payment of benefits to miners who had been denied pensions by the Boyle-controlled retirement fund.

Early this month another federal judge ordered the fund to pay pensions to some 17,000 retired miners and widows of miners. Payments under that order for this year have been estimated at some $37 million.

The fund reported last June 30 that its assets had dropped to $78 million from $180 million four years ago, but O'Connor said fund officials recently informed Judge Richey that assets were now about $120 million.

Workers Run Steel Mill

When the Kaiser Steel Corporation decided to shut down its pipe mill because of Japanese competition, the workers asked for a chance to operate the plant.

They got it, and now, 90 days later, the company says productivity has soared 32.1 per cent. But because Japanese production remains ahead, it still is undecided whether the results will be enough to keep the plant open.

Editorial — Abortion Decion: A Battle Won

Modern Times thanks abortion groups such as Women Versus Connecticut for creating a constant pressure that forced the recent Supreme Court Decision. We celebrate the right of every American woman to have a safe legal abortion. For a long time, wealthier women have been able to have abortions. In 1969 one million, or one out of every four pregnant American women got an illegal abortion. These usually cost between $200 and $2,000 and were often unsafe. Over 500 women died of illegal abortions in 1969. Now inexpensive safe abortion clinics may open in Connecticut. Now the average American family has a new freedom to decide if and when, and how many children they want. For more than 100 years, since the first anti-abortion legislation passed in Connecticut, Connecticut women have been forced to care for and men have been forced to support unwanted children, who have suffered all their lives as a result. We celebrate Connecticut's and all of America's new freedom.

Today's children will create America's future wealth. They will find and mine the minerals, make and operate the machines, invent the new miracles. In spite of this child care is still the burden of each private citizen. Our government has shown a callous disregard for our children.

Today's women have to work. At least 1,200,000 American Children under six are left alone while their mother's work. More children under six are left alone than are in day-care centers. Nixon has blocked two child-care bills and is now cutting back on the whole range of child welfare programs–from inexpensive government surplus foods for child-care centers to funds for children's library books.

America is the richest country in the world but it is seventeenth on the list of countries with the lowest infant mortality rate. Some states have more infant deaths than the poorest countries like Guatamala and Egypt. Infant death rates go up as incomes go down. 400,000 American children are crippled or retarded and 200 each year are killed by lead poisoning, a disease of poor children. Over half of low-income American children have never been to the dentist and 90% have only been to the doctor for emergencies.

In 1967 Congress granted funds to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (H.E.W.), for "Early and Periodic Screening and Diagnosis and Treatment" of low income children (EPSDT). H.E.W. finally issued the regulations that allowed the program to go into effect in 1971, only after the Secretary of H.E.W. was threatened with a federal injunction and a law suit filed by the National Welfare Rights Organization. If the program had been implemented as Congress ordered more than 13 million children would have received comprehensive physical and mental examinations, doctors' visits and remedial services like eyeglasses, hearing-aids and dental care.

If the American government provided for children's physical and emotional needs, then perhaps the government would have the right to participate in the decision of whether women should have children or not. Since it does not provide adequate services it should not have that right. The fight for the right to legal abortion is also the fight for children's rights to be wanted and cared for. It is part of a long list of successful struggles including the fights for the right to public education (which we might have to start again), for the end of child labor, for free libraries and parks, etc.

One tiny fight has been won. It gives us hope that the huge struggle to make America a secure and fulfilling place for everyone is possible.

Write On

KEEP IT UP

To the Editors:

Just finished reading a few copies of *Modern Times* and wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed them. Having been away from New Haven for ten months I had lost contact with some of the daily struggles there reported in the paper.

But I see that the workers at Yale New Haven Hospital are still fighting for their union and C. Clayton Gengras continues to dangle Connecticut residents on a string. What about union activity at Yale University?

The addition of Frank Annunziato as a regular writer brings a bit of humor and "neighborliness" to the paper. His East Side Round-Up gives me a sense of Fair Haven as a community. Couldn't that type of coverage be given to other areas of New Haven?

The "On the Job" series has improved. While the stories that people have to tell are not always pleasant, it is encouraging to read of their efforts "in their own words."

I've enjoyed the editorials more lately, especially the congratulations to the leaders and new members of Local 217 who succeeded in gaining a union at the Holiday Inn in Norwalk.

The content, layout, pictures and proof-reading of the paper continue their high quality. I hope as much effort goes into circulation as goes into production.

Sincerely,

Art Fleischner
Israel

SEASON'S GREETINGS

To the Editors:

I can truly say there is moral support from this reader, for one, in reading the point of view you express in your little publication. It is deeply gratifying to be able to believe what you "see in the paper."

Best wishes for the continued publication of *Modern Times* and Love, Joy and Peace to those who keep it going.

Sincerely,

Charlotte K. Munger

HEARTLESS REGISTER

To the Editors:

In the last issue of *Modern Times* there was a front page article and picture reporting the Pressmen's strike at the *Journal Courier* and the support they were receiving from other unions. I had a recent experience which relates to this strike.

A couple of weeks ago I received a phone call and the caller announced that she was soliciting subscriptions to the *Journal Courier*. Her big pitch was that part of the money would go to the New Haven Heart Association. So I would be getting a paper and doing a good deed at the same time.

I informed the lady as politely as I could that I was a member of a union and would not buy the paper while there was a strike.

After I hung up I realized that the Heart Fund was allowing itself to be used as an anti-union gimmick. Contribute to the Heart Association through the *Journal Courier* and help bust the union.

I know that my union and many others contribute directly to the Heart Association, in addition to the donations of individual members. They should be informed that this sort of tie-in won't sit well with organized labor.

M. Davidson

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MODERN TIMES

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MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need–not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together against the rich, powerful few who run New Haven and the whole country. We want everyone to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Breuler, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Art Fleischner, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Lynne Karsten, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Jim Jordan, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florrie Ricciuti, Bob Sherry, Henry Tamarin, Ross Thompson, Sergio Verillo, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff, Tony Della-Ventura, Rusty Foster

Truce: A Vietnamese Triumph After Tragedy

by P. J. O'Connell

This is the first of a two-part news analysis on Vietnam. The author discusses events since October and the truce agreement. Next week he takes up the next phase of the war.

"The United States will not continue its military involvement or intervene in the internal affairs of South Vietnam."--Article 4 of the Paris Agreement on a Vietnam Truce.

Some names--Waterloo, Gettysburg, Stalingrad, Dienbienphu--stand forever on the pages of history as turning points of great wars. The only name that can rightly be pointed to as the turning point of the Vietnam War of the 1960s and 1970s is that of "Vietnam" itself. The common people all over this small, poor, and divided land fought for long and bloody years against the intervention of the mightiest military machine in the world, the United States government, and finally have brought it to a temporary standstill. No, the followers of Ho Chi Minh, the "George Washington of Vietnam", have not yet marched in triumph through a liberated Saigon to raise their flag over that outpost of the American Empire. But they have won an historic victory.

"The United States promises to respect the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Vietnam as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements." Article 1 of the Paris Agreement on a Vietnam Truce

On paper at least, Nixon has given up the claim on the truce accord signed January 27, that South Vietnam is a wholly separate nation from socialist North Vietnam. This is the claim that the U.S. government used to justify sabotaging the Geneva Agreements between 1954 and 1956, installing corrupt and brutal dictators in Saigon from 1954 on, and intervening directly from 1961 on with U.S. forces. With the forces of Vietnamese national unification in open control of more than 40 percent of the land area and 25 percent of the population of South Vietnam despite 46,000 U.S. combat dead and the most massive bombing campaigns in world history, Nixon finally faced reality.

He accepted the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (the "Vietcong") as, in diplomatic language, one of the "South Vietnamese parties," signatory of the agreement on an equal basis with the Saigon regime, which the U.S. government has always declared to be, in Nixon's words of January 23, "the sole legitimate government of South Vietnam." Under the terms of the standstill ceasefire, the Provisional Revolutionary Government will remain in charge of the areas they control and will have full political rights in Saigon-held areas.

"The South Vietnamese people shall decide themselves the political future of South Vietnam through genuinely free and democratic elections under international supervision."–Article 9b of the Paris Agreement on a Vietnam Truce

How does the agreement signed in January differ from the one Nixon and Kissinger declared to be "at hand" just before the Presidential election in the fall and then sabotaged by demanding over 120 changes in the agreed-upon text? The differences are trivial: a few changes in the size and placement of the International Commission of Control for the cease-fire, a new format for the ritual signing of the text, and a few changes in wording describing the National Council of Reconciliation and Concord. (The Council is a body made up equally of representatives of the Saigon regime, the Provisional Revolutionary Government, and neutralists for the "task of promoting the two South Vietnamese parties' implementation of this agreement.")

Nixon-Kissinger diplomatic maneuver clearly failed. An agreement virtually identical with the January agreement could have been signed in October when the North Vietnamese and Provisional Revolutionary Government suspended their demand for the withdrawal of U.S. support from the Saigon dictatorship before negotiation of the terms of a ceasefire. (Of course, peace could have been achieved at any time in the many years since the start of the fighting if the U.S. government had cut the strings on its Saigon puppet.)

Yet Nixon launched the terror bombing raids of December in a last ditch attempt to extort concessions to prop up President Thieu, to create as much death and destruction as possible before signing of the agreement, and to threaten revolutionary forces in the rest of the world. This attempt also failed. The forces that have constantly stymied Washington held their lines.

The Vietnamese fought back without slackening. Their Soviet-supplied anti-aircrafts guns manned by women construction workers downed in 11 days 10 percent of the American B-52s assigned to the Far East. The cost of the 11 days to the U.S. was at least a quarter of a billion dollars in planes, bombs, fuel, and training costs and an increase of one-third the number of captured Americans.

The Soviet Union and China pledged to continue their material and moral support to Vietnam and let Nixon know that the trade deals he needs to boost the U.S. economy could be jeopardized.

The peace movement at home and around the world, which was supposed to be demobilized in the aftermath of the McGovern defeat, swung into action once more. Sharp protests poured in from many governments, leaders, parties, and key groups (particularly labor) countries as diverse as Australia, Belgium, Iceland, India, Italy, and Sweden. Dock unions went on strike in Australia and Italy, and refused to handle U.S. goods. Around the world, the parallel was drawn between Nixon's politicies and Hitler's.

In response to public shock, politicians in both the Democratic and Republican parties denounced the bombing and vowed to introduce end-the-war legislation. A run-of-the-mill Republican Senator from the Midwest even publicly stated, "The President has taken leave of his senses." POW families went on television to express bitterness about the political prolongation of the war by the bombing. The organized peace movement (including the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice and AIM in New Haven) staged demonstrations across the country and began planning the march on Washington that drew 100,000 persons in the dead of winter, Inauguration Day to be exact.

Then Nixon stopped the bombing. Then the Vietnamese returned to the conference table. Then the agreement was signed, and the U.S. began to withdraw all its military forces from Vietnam at long last. Then the killing stopped...momentarily.

Next Issue: The Next Phase of the War

A Long March Against The War

In April of 1967,the mobile theatre performed on the New Haven Green with statements in song, dance, poetry and speech of opposition to the war in Vietnam.
(MT photo by Dan Church)

by Liz Henderson

"Because we are fighting on the wrong side of a social revolution and war of independence, we have been led to commit atrocities unheard of in our history. We have sprayed 59,000 acres of crops with poison this year, napalmed villages, bombed hospitals, schools and factories... By accepting the consequences of this war, we have been forced to engage in self-deception and to watch the gradual erosion of our honor, our integrity, and our humanity." – Bob Cook, speech Aug. 3, 1966 during campaign as AIM candidate for Congress.

Thousands of New Haven people have spent literally hundreds of thousands of hours in the past eight years to protest against the war in Vietnam. Just a list of all the actions from post-card campaigns to mass demonstrations to draft card burnings would fill an entire page of this newspaper. When Nixon announced the recent cease-fire, the New Haven Peace Movement threw no victory parties. There was a feeling that energy might be needed yet again to struggle against the war. We print here a brief review of the highlights of the long march against United States involvement in Southeast Asia.

1965

The Yale-New Haven Committee Against the War in Vietnam and the New Haven Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy ran the first peace conference at Powder Ridge to discuss ways to spread awareness of President Johnson's escalation of the American presence in Vietnam. The 1965 conference was small, but the second in 1966 drew over 2500 peace activists.

A group of divinity students started a weekly vigil against the war. The vigil continues now eight years later. Harry Klein, one of the stalwart few who have faithfully returned to stand in silence along Church St. every Wednesday from 12:30 to 1:30, says he intends to keep it up as long as U.S. bombs fall in Cambodia or Laos.

1966

The American Independent Movement (AIM) formed and decided to run Bob Cook as an independent candidate for the House of Representatives. Educating the public about the war was one of the main goals of the Cook campaign. The AIM platform on Vietnam stated:

"We believe the United States should end the war in Vietnam and bring our boys home. Therefore, we propose:

1. Stop all bombing, permanently and unconditionally, and declare a cease-fire.

2. Negotiate a coalition government with the National Liberation Front, Buddhists and other South Vietnamese groups.

3. Commence the phased withdrawal of all American troops.

4. Reconvene the Geneva conference to implement the 1954 agreement which calls for internationally supervised free elections on reunification and forbids any military alliance or the presence of any foreign troops.

5. Contribute $10 billion to the U.N. for post-war Vietnamese reconstruction."

There is a startling resemblance between AIM's platform and the cease-fire arrangements now underway seven years later. Cook succeeded in making the war one of the main issues of the campaign. Incidentally, he won over 5% of the vote, more than any other independent peace candidate that year.

1967

For the Spring Mobilization Against the War over 1000 New Haveners marched in New York. In New Haven there was a balloon-in, a film-in/speak-out and AIM members formed a guerilla theatre group. This mobile unit performed a collage of songs, poems and dances in the streets of New Haven. For their refrain they took a line from a Brecht poem and addressed it to their audiences–"You must take over the leadership."

Resistance to the draft became a serious movement. Yale students organized a "We Won't Go" group. The Draft Action Group was set up to provide draft age men with information about the army and alternatives to service. In December over 350 people picketed the New Haven Induction Center in support of young men who refused induction and chanted "Hell no, we won't go!"

For 1968-1973 see the next issue of Modern Times.

350 people in Dec. of 1967 picketed the Selective Service Center in protest againist the war and the draft.
(MT photo by Dave Dickson)

Open Line Moscow Circus Picketers Take Wrong Line

by Sid Resnick

When the Moscow Circus came to town (January 30-February 4) it gave thousands of area people more than a chance to watch a group of excellent artists and performers. The presence of the Moscow Circus in the Veteran's Memorial Coliseum was also a good sign that the old cold war hostilities were on the wane, that the desire of so many Americans for peace with the Soviet Union was making headway. It seemed that most people in the audiences watched the visiting Soviet performers with friendly curiosity and good will.

Regrettably, this feeling of good will and desire for peaceful relations with the Soviet Union wasn't shared by everyone in town. One group, the New Haven Jewish Community Council, announced beforehand it would picket the Coliseum performances "in behalf of Soviet Jewry," while stating at the same time it was "not opposed to cultural exchange between the Soviet Union and the United States." This announcement was resented by many area residents who did not think Soviet circus performers should be held accountable for their government's policies or that a circus performance was the place to argue internal Soviet policies.

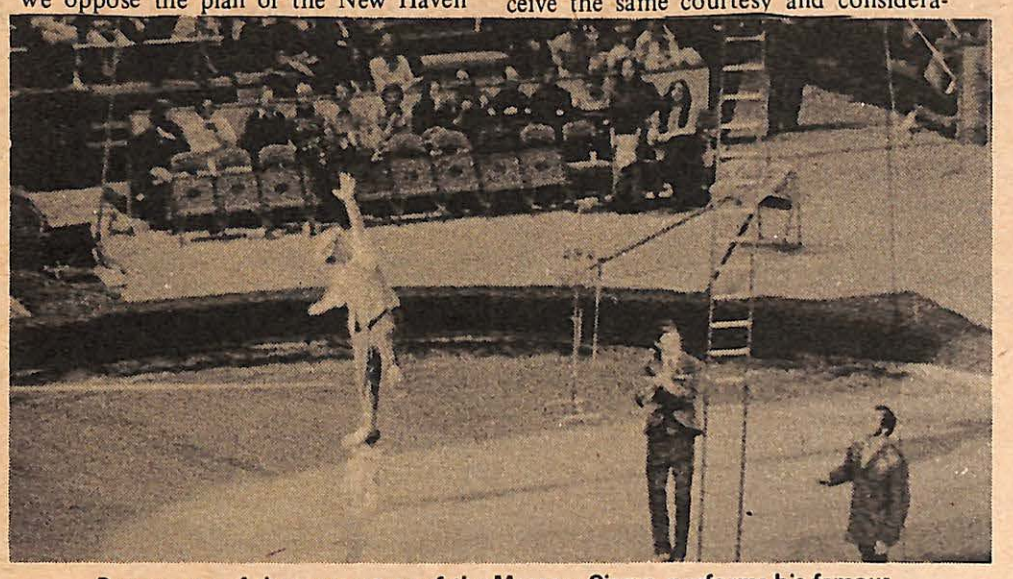
More New Haveners became worried and incensed when it was learned that the "Jewish Defense League," a noisy, right-wing, ultra-nationalist outfit was also planning to join these demonstrations. It is a matter of record that many JDL members were guilty of terrorist actions against touring Soviet artists and representatives. In January 1972 JDL toughs were indicted for the firebombing of the New York office of impressario Sol Hurok which caused the death of his secretary. The JDL, unlike the New Haven Jewish Community Council, opposes any cultural exchange with the Soviet Union and advocates a break in diplomatic relations between our two countries.

It came as a shock to many to learn that the New Haven Jewish Community Council was on speaking terms with the JDL. It appeared that the tiny JDL group was pressuring the New Haven Jewish Community Council to stage these demonstrations.

In this situation a group of Jewish residents sought to dispel the notion that the city's Jewish population was opposed to the Circus's appearance here. 28 of them quickly issued a Statement which was circulated among Jewish community leaders. Their Statement said in part:

"As Jewish residents of the New Haven area we welcome the Moscow Circus at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum and we oppose the plan of the New Haven Jewish Community Council and the "Jewish Defense League" to picket its performances.

"We are happy that our city will have the opportunity to see this talented group of artists who have come here under the cultural exchange program of the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union. We confidently expect that the Moscow Circus performers will receive the same courtesy and considera-



Popov, one of the many stars of the Moscow Circus, performs his famous imitation of a balancing act. (MT photo by Nick Heyer)

tion in New Haven as was accorded visiting American artists in the Soviet Union, including Benny Goodman, Jan Peerce, Isaac Stern and Jascha Heifetz, etc.

"We urge the New Haven Jewish Community Council to call off its planned demonstrations at the Coliseum for the following reasons:

"Such an action will tend to worsen the present improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. We welcome the increased trade and cultural relations between these two countries and the lessening of past tensions between them. The prospect of a long term arrangement with the Soviet Union to avoid war is much too important to be jeopardized for any reason...."

What About the Soviet Jews?

The above Statement did not address itself to the subject of the Soviet Jews itself. Its signers held differing views on this question but all agreed that a demonstration involving the "Jewish Defense League" would be a disservice to the community.

Progressive people are not of one mind on the Soviet Jewish situation. Some insist there is no problem at all, that it is an invention. Others believe there *is* a problem but they refuse to identify themselves with the gross exaggerations promoted by right-wing Jewish leaders. Soviet Jews are not persecuted or suffering and they generally have the same legal and civic rights (and restrictions) as do all Soviet citizens. Nevertheless, Yiddish language cultural activities are definitely limited and no Jewish institutions or organizations exist other than the synagogue! This is a troublesome problem which many believe the Soviet Union could easily solve on the basis of V.I. Lenin's policy on national minorities. However, to invoke in this situation the ominous slogans of "Free Soviet Jewry" or "Never Again" is simply demogogic.

The liberals who joined in picketing the Moscow Circus ought to consider that such demonstrations carried out in a spirit of mindless hostility to the Soviet Union does not make for a good image of the American Jewish community. Any effort to undermine the improved Soviet-American relations and revive cold war politics runs counter to humanities interests.

This feeling apparently was also shared by a very large number of Jewish people. There were many times more Jews inside the Coliseum enjoying the Moscow Circus than were outside picketing.

Scoop On City Circuit Hoop

by William Breuler
MT Sports Reporter

As you've probably surmised from the first two columns of this series, this reporter does not deal in the normal sports stories which fill your daily paper. My object is something a great deal more obtuse than merely reporting the sports of New Haven and environs. I am trying to say that the concept of competition is alive and well in this city, untainted by commercialism which infects most of our professional sports.

A defensive back for the late Vince Lombardi reported for his contract talks with the mentor accompanied by his lawyer. This was the first time Lombardi had encountered a lawyer who negotiated for a player. The defensive back said "This is my lawyer. He speaks for me." Lombardi left the room and returned several minutes later. He said, "So this man speaks for you, does he?" "Yes", came the reply. "Well he'd better start speaking to the Philadelphia Eagles because I just traded you."

So what's the point? I see it this way. . . If you can't speak to me, or compete with me, or beat me, or lose to me on a person to person level, then we've altered the basic concept of sportsmanship. We've made it into something less than real. A banker's nightmare. If you don't believe that, then think of how many of our phrases and terms concerning human relations have economic bases. Why Shakespeare's sonnets are full of similes relating love to money.

True Competition

Bearing this in mind I am going to report on one of the best basketball games I have ever seen. It was played on February 7th at Beaver Pond Park. It consisted of five black kids on another five. They played "Make It-Take It" through a twenty-one point game.

They spun and wheeled, and dribbled through their legs. They "popped" from thirty feet. They boxed for rebounds, made tips. They skyed for balls tapped back from the boards. They ran, constantly in motion like a seven-day clock. Like a dream they bobbed and weaved intricate patterns on the maccadam court. Ten young men fighting for the moment, the very instant, when their man had a mental lapse and they could break for the hoop.

Pro Ball

The whoops and small applause for a "badd"move. It was pro ball. No doubt about that. So intricate like looking closely at ten spiders spinning the same web. A ballet in black.

And there were no fouls! No arguments. If a ball went out of bounds they knew who touched it last. And if on some rare occasion they didn't, a simple choosing with fingers figured it out.

The "baddest" move was made by a kid named Oscar. He drove the land, shoulder faked in mid air, did two hand fakes with the ball right then left, then softly, lazily lofted the ball over the heaven-stretched arms of "Woody" and it swished through the twines. I'll never forget it.

Next time you're on the street and see a school yard game take a few seconds and treat yourself to some authentic competition.

Oh! Final score? Woody's team victorious 24 to 22. A deuce game.

Sports Trivia

Answer to last issue's sports trivia question: Who was Sal Durante?

Sal Durante was the man who caught Roger Maris's sixty-first home run.

Didn't have much luck with that one. . .try your grey matter on this one.

Who was the last batter to face Bob Larson in his perfect game in the 1956 World Series?

Send your answer to Modern Times, 441 Chapel Street, New Haven, Ct.

State Tax Unit Reveals Plans To Soak Poor

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

Governor Meskill's new budget and his Republican-controlled Legislature are now aiming at changes in our sales taxes, property taxes, income tax, and business taxes. This article is the first of a series looking at what the changes will be and how they will affect us.

In 1971 the Legislature passed a bill setting up an income tax for Connecticut. The angry uproar that followed forced repeal of that bill. By mid-1972 fury over taxes in this state was nearing another, hotter boiling point. So Governor Meskill did what Governors often do in crises - nothing, or to be more exact, he set up a Commission to study the matter.

Meskill's Executive Order No. 13 of June 15, 1972, established the Governor's Commission on Tax Reform. The businessman selected as Chairman was Francis E. Baker, Jr., President of Andersen Laboratories, Inc. of Bloomfield. The task assigned to the Commission was to study the findings of all earlier Connecticut Commissions on taxes, to study tax systems of other states, to study just how present taxes work in Connecticut, and finally to come up with recommendations for tax reform.

On December 18, 1972, the Commission's Report was published. A summary *is available without charge from the State* Tax Department, 92 Farmington Ave., Hartford, Connecticut 06105.

2/3 of Every Dollar

The Commission's study of Connecticut's tax system uncovered some interesting information. With the laws now on the books, 1973 will see the state raise nearly two-thirds of every tax dollar by taxes on purchases (sales tax, cigarette, liquor, gas, electric, water, etc.) while only one fifth of each dollar will come from taxes on corporate business. The rest of the state's general revenue comes from a mixed bag of special taxes.

The Commission also indicates that, like Governor Meskill, it is counting on cutting back spending in this state. For example, the average increase in state spending from year to year since 1968 has been over 17%. The Commission plans for an average annual increase of 5% through 1977.

With such a dramatic cut in spending, the Commission is planning to have tax collections by the state rise at the rate of 7% each year to 1977, a welcome slow-down after the dizzy 18% rate of increase in yearly tax collections which Connecticut has had since 1968.

Who's Tax Break

So the question posed for us as for the Commission is this: who is going to get the tax break made possible by Meskill's cut-back of all kinds of programs in education, welfare, housing, recreation, and so forth? The all-important answer to this big question is hinted at early on in the Commission's Report.

There, in that special, silly language of official Reports, the Commission said it planned to study "the impact of the Connecticut tax structure on business with a view to encouraging economic expansion in order to create new jobs, and evaluating the competition with other states in the search for industry."

Low Taxes on Business

In plain English, the Commission was set up with a heavy bias in favor of using the popular demand for tax reform as a convenient way to lower taxes on business. So it is no surprise that proposals to lower taxes on business came from the Commission and have now been included in Governor Meskill's new budget proposals.

To begin with, the Commission talks about a possible maximum cut in the sales tax from 7 to 6½ percent. But it quickly adds that if this is to be done, another change should be made at the same time. Childrens' clothing and personal services which are now exempt should be taxed, says the Commission, if the overall rate is lowered to 6½%. So a cut in the tax could readily turn out to be no real cut at all.

In fact, at the end of the Report the Commission economists estimate that lowering the sales tax from 7 to 6½% but making children's clothing and personal services taxable will actually *raise* state collections of the sales tax by $2 million a year.

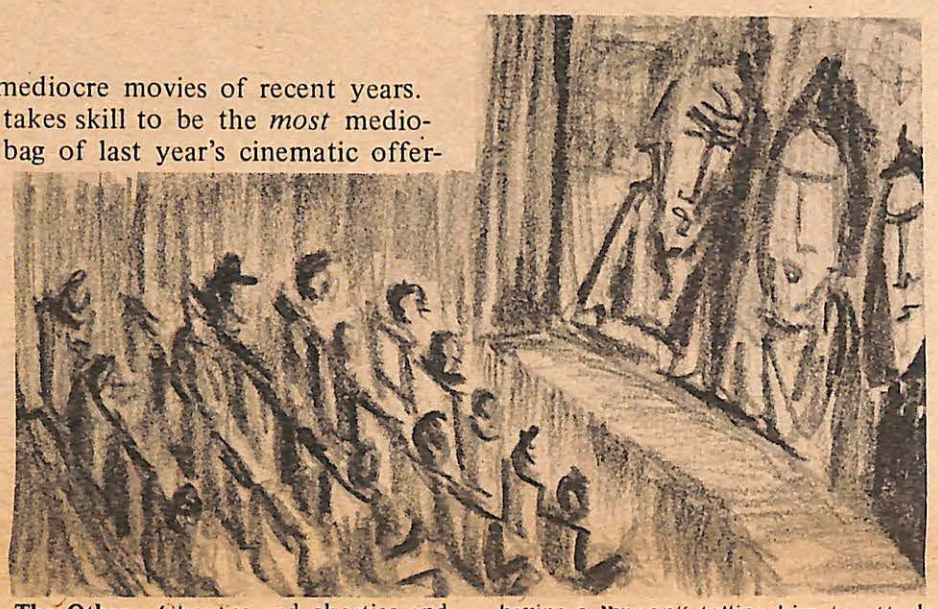
The sales tax is the real crusher that hits most people in Connecticut. The Commission's decision to recommend what amounts to *increasing* it, clearly tells us who is going to get the tax break. Not the average citizen, but rather the rich and the businesses. Much of the Commission's Report gives a detailed run-down on how tax cuts for these groups will work. That will be discussed in this column in the next issue of **Modern Times**.

ON FILM

Capsule Commentaries On The Year's Crummiest

by P. J. O'Connell

1972 brought some of the most mediocre movies of recent years. But then, if you think about it, it takes skill to be the *most* mediocre, doesn't it? Herewith a mixed bag of last year's cinematic offerings:



Bad Company. The nineteenth-century juvenile (and adult) delinquents in this country and western western are pretty good company once they get out of town and onto the flat lonesome prairie. From the writers of *Bonnie and Clyde.*

Buck and the Preacher. Sidney Poitier does his thing as a solemn wagonmaster in this black western while Harry Belafonte does something else as a rolling-eyed, rotten-teethed preacherman.

The Candidate. Robert Redford as a liberal candidate finds the campaign trail turning into the political primrose path. Best scenes: the candidate confronts a dog in the ghetto and a Republican in the john.

Deliverance. Location filming in, on, around, and under a beautifully clear wild river redeems the murky plot, dialogue, and characterization of this confused critique of the masculine mystique.

The Last House on the Left. Pass quickly by the sight of this example of the cinema of sadism and sexism.

Play It Again, Sam. Woody Allen calls on the ghost of Bogey to help him make the scene as a tightlipped lover. The audience goes slack-jawed with laughter. With Diane Keaten and Joy Bang.

Prime Cut. Lee Marvin shoots it out with Gene Hackman who peddles beef and women in a creepy Kansas (played by Alberta). Untouched by human minds.

The Other. Ghoulies and ghosties and long-legged beasties and things that go bump in the night. But when you turn on the light, it all goes away, like the memory of this movie.

Savage Messiah. Flamboyant British director Ken Russell lets the chips fall where he flays out this bizarrely touching tribute to sculptor Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, killed in World War I.

Frenzy. Alfred Hitchcock ties 'em (women) up in knots (around the neck) but isn't as thrilling or as witty as he used to be.

The Go-Between. This film moves between satirizing boredom and boring satirex in its story of a summer among the aristocracy of Victorian England.

The Great Northfield, Minnesota, Raid. Another country and western western. The wild, wooly, and wacky James boys and the Youngers shoot up the north country--and themselves. Best scene: a stuttering Robert Duvall as Jesses James having a "vision" telling him to attack Northfield, Minnesota, "the Yankee Sodom and Gemorrah."

Hannie Caulder. A woman's liberation western that might be called **A Heartful of Dolor.** Raquel Welch dons a Clint Eastwood-style hat and serape and sets out to shoot some men down to size.

I Want What I Want. And what (s)he wants is to be a (wo)man without the woe. Tasteful transexualism.

A Separate Peace. Bloodless dissection of life in an upper-class, WASP, private school. An unexciting piece.

Shaft's Big Score. A black detective story. Shaft millions, audience zero.

Skyjacked. A movie movie. The Soviet Air Force plays John Wayne and rescues Charlten Heston from a crazy U. S. soldier.

Where Does It Hurt? In the pocketbook for paying to see this ailing collection of medical and ethnic jokes. Cinenema.

Public Taken For Ride: Meskill Drags Feet

Ms. Michael Spinalto

To some people, driving to work was the next best thing. Michael Spinalto said, "It's terrible and it's taking so long. I have a car now but I would really rather take a bus. There is no better transportation than that."

continued from page 1

this to say, "I generally get a ride downtown and then I take the Orange St. Bus. I wind up walking home after school. It's Meskill's fault and we are the ones that suffer."

Nina Proto continued "We are supposed to have an excess of money in this state and what has he done with it? He's bragging about the surplus and the thing that he does is builds a fence around his house and neglects to provide bus transportation for everybody."

"I live on Grand Ave. I have bad legs and generally I have to walk. I am also an outpatient cardiac patient and it's very hard for me to get to the hospital. It's really rough." Clara Baldwin made these remarks and they seem to express what most folks think about the lack of buses in New Haven. It's ironic but true, that a city of this size cannot have a decent transportation system. The state, say most people, must provide us with good public transportation.

Anna Grinaldi

(MT photos by Patti Miller)

Anna Grinaldi: "It's terrible! They haven't settled yet and that's not right. I take the Orange St. Bus, but I feel sorry for the people that do not have the bus to ride and can't get anywhere. It's a shame."

On The Job

Retired Union Teacher Looks Back

by Stan Heller
West Haven Federation of Teachers

The following interview is with Mrs. Florence Mack, a highly respected West Haven teacher who retired two years ago after 35 years of service. She was and is an active union member and continues to do volunteer work for the West Haven Federation of Teachers. In this interview she recalls her classroom experience and activity with teacher organizations.

Florence Mack recalls some of her memories for our Modern Times reporter while she relaxes at her home. (MT photo by Vittorio Comisso)

My first year of teaching was in 1928. The pay then for a beginning teacher was $100 a month, ten months a year. I taught seven years and then got married and temporarily left teaching. In those days West Haven had a rule stating that upon marriage a woman teacher had to leave the school system.

In 1943 they relaxed this rule and I returned to teaching and spent the next 28 years at Colonial Park Elementary School. I'm proud to say I never applied to get back. The Superintendent asked me to come back, practically begged me to come back and I finally agreed.

That year I received $1500 in salary, a full $100 below my salary agreement for 1934-5, my last year teaching. I suppose I could have argued and held out for $1700, but I didn't want to bother. In those days the Board of Education didn't have to hold to hard and fast union rules about salaries.

I actually wasn't receiving any less money than in 1935. For on my salary agreement of that year it said that all teachers would lose $200 in increments that year and would have 19% of their pay deducted on top of that. The Board of Education imposed this pay cut on account of the Depression. My actual take home pay that year was $1134. But at least we were paid regularly. I had a relative down South who taught three or four months without being payed at all!

A Good Class

I started at Washington School and after a year switched to the sixth grade at Union School. My first class there was wonderful. They were all brilliant students. Not one child in that room had an average below 85. But did they keep me on the run. One boy was officially labeled a genius and you wouldn't believe the questions he would ask. I even had to go to the principal with some of those questions, they were that difficult.

The class was a class of 52 students. And that huge size wasn't so unusual. All elementary classes had around 40 students in those days. Class size didn't go down until well after the war. In 1949 I had 48 in my class at Colonial Park. Then class size started going down. We'd get 35 in a class and that would be considered a big treat.

Now the union is asking for a maximum class size in the low 20's for elementary grades. That's a good proposal because those grades are the foundation of a child's education. There children learn reading fundamentals and the teacher has to help them individually all day long. That's why I think low class size is necessary.

When I started there was never any talk of a union. We didn't even have an Educational Association then. We belonged to a group that I think was called the West Haven Teachers League. It was a weak organization—we were all pretty timid in those days. Principals were part of the League and could come to all the meetings, so obviously the League couldn't stand up for teachers very well.

Afraid of Losing Job

Principals used to scream at you for every little thing, but you wouldn't say anything for fear of your job. Teachers were a dime a dozen then like they are today. When I started teaching, teachers had to be in their room at 8:30, a half hour before school actually began. One day I came late two minutes and did I get screamed at all over the hall! I was shaking all over like a little kid about to get a spanking.

I don't remember when the West Haven Education Association started. I never really liked the association. In my opinion and the opinion of a lot of other teachers many association presidents were aspiring to some higher school position. Some worked hard, but many spent their time polishing the apple in hopes of getting some position in the administration.

It wasn't until the 60's that there was any talk of a union. When it began I watched it for a year or so and went to some union meetings to see what the union wanted to do for the children and the teachers. And after considering what the administrators were doing and what the association wasn't doing, I decided to join the union. A lot of people thought I joined because Ted (Ted Mack, Mrs. Mack's son and a past union president) was active in the union. But that wasn't so. He never pressured me.

Seeing Them Grow

Looking back on teaching I think the best part was seeing children grow in terms of gaining knowledge. In elementary school you can really see the difference between what children know in the fall and what they know in June.

My greatest satisfaction was seeing the gradual changes on students' faces as I explained difficult new material. At first their faces would be scrunched up and puzzled. Then I would explain the lesson and their hands would go up and I would answer their questions. Finally the smiles would break out when the lesson would be learned. Those smiles were the most gratifying part of teaching.

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Speaker: A.B. Magil
author, "Isreal in Crisis"

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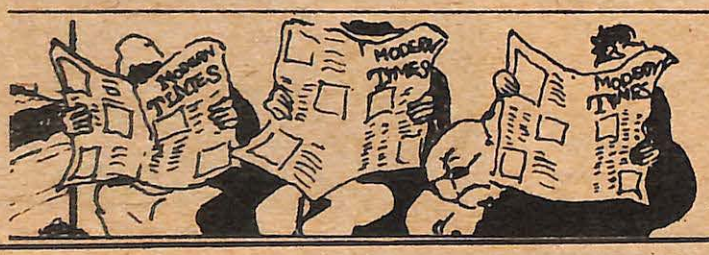

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